

Sea Turtle Volunteer Program

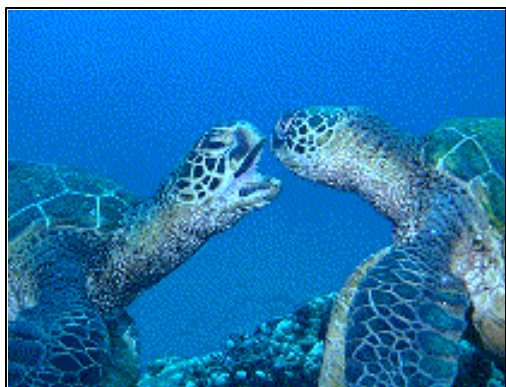
Share the Beach



Newsletter of the USFWS Daphne Field Office

<http://daphne.fws.gov>

July 26, 2002



Turtle Drama,, Photo: Turtle Trax web page

The Hatching Season Has Started!!

Just a Reminder

Our next meeting is **Thursday
August 8th**, 6:30 PM at Gulf State
Park Resort Hotel

Contact Us:

251-441-5181, x 41
or
251-709-4583

Share the Beach Newsletter

Staff

Tarah Smith
Sarah Gibbs

The Share the Beach
newsletter is published by
the Daphne Field Office,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service, P.O. Drawer 1190,
Daphne, AL 36526. Tel.
251-441-5181. Fax 251-441-
6222. Web site:
<http://daphne.fws.gov>.

Share the Beach Update

Our first nests have begun hatching so team leaders need to be sure and have their nest-sitting schedules organized. Starting at Day 55, the nests should be checked at 8 PM, 10 PM and 12 AM for any activity. As you get closer to Day 65 or notice a strong scratching sound, the nest should also be checked at 2 AM and 4 AM. So far, we have noticed late hatching dates, around day 64-70. If a depression forms over the eggs or the scratching sound intensifies, volunteers need to call their team leader and remain at the nest to wait for the hatching.

Also it is best to keep lights, **including** red flashlights, off the hatchlings and away from the shoreline. Hatchlings will still react to the red light and flashing light at the shoreline attracts predators like sharks and fish.

Excavations of the nest will be done at day 75 or 3 days after the first emergence. Carol and Haley will handle the Fort Morgan and Refuge nests and Gulf State Park Staff will handle their team's nests. All remaining nests will be excavated by Sarah and Tarah. Please keep in contact with the Daphne Field Office or Bon Secour Refuge throughout the hatching period. We would like to be at as many hatchings as possible to help out so please keep our numbers handy.

If there are any volunteers that are not involved in nest-sitting and would like to help out as a floater for other teams, please contact the Daphne Office

Check out our new logo:



Visit our new web site for the latest information:

<http://daphne.fws.gov>



Nest Update

· Even though the hatchlings have started emerging, females are still coming ashore to lay their eggs so keep up the morning patrols.

· Emergence success rate is up almost 50% from last year.

BS/ Ft. Morgan: 30 nests, A1 hatched w/ ~130 hatchlings

West Beach #1: 2 nests

West Beach #2: 1 nest

Gulf State Park: 5 nests

Laguna Key: 10 nests, B1 hatched w/ 123 hatchlings

Orange Beach: 6 nests

AL Point/Ono Island: 10 nests

Notes

If your team needs black tarp, wire screens or additional stethoscopes contact Tarah & Sarah at the Daphne Office.